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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Declaration of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Delivery Systems, adopted at a meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States on 25 August 1993 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 71, entitled "General and complete disarmament".

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the Republic of Armenia to
the United Nations

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Permanent Representative of
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(Signed) L. KAYUMOV
Permanent Representative of
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the United Nations

(Signed) I. MUKHAMEDOV
for the Republic of Uzbekistan

(Signed) Ya. ALIYEV
Permanent Representative of
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(Signed) P. CHKHEIDZE
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(Signed) D. ATABEKOV
Permanent Representative of
the Kyrgyz Republic to
the United Nations

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to
the United Nations

(Signed) A. RAKHMANOV
Permanent Representative of
Turkmenistan to the
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Annex

JOINT DECLARATION OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, GEORGIA, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THEIR DELIVERY SYSTEMS

The Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Georgia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan share the profound concern of the international community at the possibility of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, and reaffirm their steadfast determination to ensure the non-proliferation of such weapons and systems. The commitments to that end established in the instruments adopted by the Commonwealth of Independent States reflect its members' acceptance of their responsibility in this area. The States which have adopted this Declaration shall do everything in their power to ensure that the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction, as well as of their delivery systems, does not arise in the territories of their countries.

The States which have adopted this Declaration note with concern that the waning of the threat of a global nuclear catastrophe is being accompanied by the escalation of conflicts at a regional level. In circumstances where scientific and technological advances are bringing weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems within the reach of an increasing number of countries, the danger of their use in regional conflicts and the involvement in those conflicts of Powers outside the region is vastly increased. Aware of this danger, the States which have adopted this instrument declare their support for the decisions reached by the United Nations Security Council at its meeting on 31 January 1992, particularly its view that "the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security", and their belief that the task of non-proliferation in all its aspects must remain the focus of attention of the Security Council as the organ which, under the Charter of the United Nations, has "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security". They express their readiness to contribute to efforts by the international community to strengthen the existing non-proliferation regimes.

The States which have adopted this Declaration have a high regard for the role played by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in restraining the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and believe that efforts to strengthen the Treaty and to achieve universal adherence are in the interests of all the States of the world. They support the succession of the Russian Federation to the former USSR in respect of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and note that the Republic of Armenia, the Azerbaijani Republic, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Uzbekistan have become parties to the Treaty. The States which have not yet acceded to the Treaty as non-nuclear States declare their readiness to do so and to place their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. The States

which have adopted this Declaration intend to promote the speedy and unconditional extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1995.

These States also support the goals of chemical and biological disarmament, the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, opened for signature on 13 January 1993.

Remaining fully cognizant of the need to ensure strict control over the export of materials and technologies which could be used for the production of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, the States which have adopted this Declaration are prepared to cooperate with one another and with other members of the international community in efforts to create in their territories an effective system for such control and for the adoption of the corresponding legislative acts. In this context, they declare their readiness, once the necessary domestic procedures have been completed, to participate, as full members, in the existing regimes in the area of export controls.